

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: April 29, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana's educator workforce continues to strengthen. This is thanks to the work taking place in school systems and to sound policy decisions by BESE and the state legislature that have expanded pathways into the profession. Our latest [State Workforce Snapshot](#) shows that we are retaining 85% of teachers and early-career teacher retention has increased by 3%.

While there is still work ahead, these trends show the positive impact of the leadership and innovation happening across our schools and systems.

As we approach Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to thank you for the leadership you demonstrate every day to recruit, support, and celebrate our teachers. Your work is making a real difference for Louisiana students, and I am grateful for your partnership.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [April 30 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [May 1 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: May 2 at 9 a.m.
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [May 6 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [May 6 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [May 6 at 3 p.m.](#)
- LEADS Implementation Monthly Call: [May 7 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [May 7 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [May 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [May 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [May 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [May 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Office of Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [May 15 at 3 p.m.](#)

- 2025-2026 Super App Office Hours: [May 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [May 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Community of Practice: [May 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Principal's Monthly Call: [May 26 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- SPED Fellow Application Deadline: [April 30](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 4: [April 30](#)
- Dyslexia Professional Certification Program Deadline: [April 30](#)
- International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Survey: [May 1](#)
- Complete Act 108 Reporting: [May 1](#)
- CSI/TSI Plan Submission Deadline in eGMS: May 2
- SEAP Application Deadline: [May 9](#)
- Science Summer Professional Learning for [Educators](#) and [School Leaders](#) Registration Deadline: May 9
- 2025 New Homeless Liaison and Parent and Family Engagement Federal Compliance Conference: [May 12](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)
- Middle of Year (MOY) and End of Year (EOY) Gifted Referral Data Submission Deadline: May 16
- FFY 2025 Grant Application Public Comment Deadline: [May 18](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit 2025: [June 10-12](#)

Teaching and Learning

Diverse Learners

Special Education Advisory Panel Application Open

Please share with special education stakeholders.

The LDOE is seeking applications for membership on the [Special Education Advisory Panel \(SEAP\)](#). SEAP members represent public and private sectors that, by virtue of their position, interest, or training, can contribute information regarding the education of students with disabilities.

The panel currently has vacancies for a parent of a student with a disability, an individual with a disability, and a teacher. Interested stakeholders can apply for one of the positions by submitting an [application](#) by May 9.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Kindergarten Dyslexia Screening Platform

Please share with district test coordinators, special education leaders, general education teachers, and special education teachers.

SPED Directors and District Test Coordinators (DTCs) should collaborate to ensure the successful administration of the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen™ for kindergarten students prior to the end of this school year. DTCs should have received detailed communication from Pearson with step-by-step instructions for accessing and utilizing the Review360 platform. The initial communication included the following key points:

- Login Access: DTCs were identified as coordinators for the LDOE dyslexia screening and should attempt to log into the [system](#).
- If login issues occur, the DTCs should contact Andrea Press at Pearson (andrea.press@pearson.com), providing district name and any error messages.
- User Account Creation: Once logged in, DTCs can create user accounts for school-level administrators. These administrators can then create teacher accounts for staff administering the screening.
- Student Visibility & Screening Methods: Students may not appear immediately in the system, but this should be resolved soon. Instructions for screening — with or without rostering — were also provided in the email.

In addition, an interactive training on administering the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen™ is available through Pearson's Brainshark learning management system (LMS). DTCs and school-level staff can self-register using the following link: [Shaywitz Training Registration](#). If staff have previously used Pearson's LMS, contact Pearson Customer Service

(800-328-5999) to have the training added to accounts. Support is critical in ensuring that DTCs and school teams are equipped to complete this screening. Please reach out to DTCs to coordinate efforts, provide support as needed, and help ensure this important task is completed in a timely manner.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Literacy Screening Gifted Referral Data Collection

Please share with gifted coordinators and special education directors.

Louisiana R.S. 17:24.9 requires school systems to report the number of students identified for referral for gifted evaluation for literacy screening administration for K-3 students. The following data sets will be collected for each grade level:

- The number of gifted students scoring in the above-average range on the literacy screener
- The number of non-gifted students referred for additional screening
- The number of non-gifted students referred for gifted evaluation

The deadline to submit [Middle-of-Year \(MOY\) and End-of-Year \(EOY\)](#) gifted referral data is May 16.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

SPED Fellow Academy Application

Please share with special education leaders, special education teachers, and system leaders.

The [SPED Fellow Academy](#) application for the 2025-2026 school year is open. This opportunity is designed for novice special education leaders eager to grow leadership skills, enhance expertise, and make a lasting impact in special education. The [application](#) closes April 30.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Dyslexia Professional Certification Program

Please share with general educators, special education leaders, special education teachers, and speech-language pathologists.

The LDOE, in partnership with the Dyslexia Resource Center, is offering the Dyslexia Professional Certification Program — a unique opportunity for educators to expand expertise in supporting students with dyslexia. This sponsored program provides high-quality training and certification, equipping educators with evidence-based strategies to enhance literacy instruction and intervention. Participants will gain specialized knowledge and practical skills to effectively support students with dyslexia, improving educational outcomes across Louisiana.

The application deadline for the [Dyslexia Professional Certification Program](#) is April 30.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

English Learner Institute

Please share with English Learner directors/coordinators, federal program directors, and lead EL teachers.

The LDOE will host the [English Learner Institute for EL Directors and Coordinators](#) on May 14. The Institute provides essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Registration closes May 9.

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Mentor Teacher, Content Leader, Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series Updates

Please share with principals and teacher leaders.

The LDOE has been notified that Bloomboard will no longer offer the Louisiana Content Leader Assessment or the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series (LLAS), effective June 19. All active assessments must be completed on or before June 19. Portfolios and assessment materials will no longer be accessible after the June 19 discontinuation date.

Bloomboard has also stated that the Louisiana Mentor Teacher Assessment Series will be paused effective June 19 for updates. The revised model will launch on June 24 and include a price increase to \$500 for the assessment series.

Please contact mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov.

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application Available

Please share with human resources professionals and system leaders.

The LDOE will offer the sixth cohort of the [Recruitment and Retention Fellowship](#) during the 2025-2026 school year. This year-long fellowship provides human resources system leaders with best practices for attracting, supporting, and retaining effective educators. Participants will share innovative solutions, collaborate with fellow HR leaders across the state, and build a long-term network focused on securing a highly effective workforce.

Additional information can be found in the [Recruitment and Retention Overview](#) document. The application deadline is June 27.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy

Please share with pre-educator system leads and teachers.

[Student](#) and [Academy Staff](#) applications are now open for the Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy. This five-day hybrid summer camp and professional learning experience is open to high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway or any other coursework aimed at attracting and developing future Louisiana educators. The academy will be held July 14-18 at Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

Please contact mwillis@lsua.edu with any questions.

EDL Alternative Pathway to Leadership: Principal Boot Camp 2025-2026

Please share with principals, teacher leaders, and system leaders.

The EDL Alternative Pathway 4 offers a unique opportunity for current MPA, MBA, or JD holders and honorably discharged commissioned officers from the US military to obtain an Educational Leadership Certificate. To be eligible, interested applicants must complete the application, complete training provided by the LDOE, and pass either the School Leadership Licensure Assessment or the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series. Interested applicants should [complete the application](#) for the Fall 2025 Boot Camp.

The pathway requirements state that candidates must be provided a mentor to support their induction and transition into the Educational Leadership role. The LDOE is currently seeking mentors to support these candidates. Current school or system leaders interested in mentoring novice principals should complete the [mentor application](#) for the Fall 2025 Boot Camp.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Novice Principal Academy Registration

Please share with principals, system leaders, and teacher leaders.

The LDOE has a foundational belief that student achievement is directly related to the quality of leadership provided by school principals. The [Novice Principal Academy](#) has been created to support principals throughout the first year of school leadership.

The Novice Principal Academy is an intensive, year-long cohort focusing on leadership development through self-reflection, long-range planning, and analyzing school data. Ultimately, each component is studied, analyzed, and explicitly implemented to improve student achievement in Louisiana schools.

Novice principals interested in participating or system leaders looking to support their new leaders should complete the [application](#) before the July 7 deadline.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

The New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick-Off

Please share with human resource directors, new teachers, school leaders, and system leaders.

The LDOE will host a Summer Kick-Off for the New Teacher Experience on July 24 in Baton Rouge for up to 400 new teachers. The goals of the event are to:

- Welcome new teachers to the profession
- Understand the components of Louisiana's New Teacher Experience
- Engage in professional learning around topics relevant to new teachers
- Provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers

The Summer Kick-Off will take place at the Lod Cook Alumni Center in Baton Rouge, located at 3838 W. Lakeshore Drive. Registration will open in mid-May and will close when capacity is reached. School systems should share details about the event with their new teachers and ensure that they can attend before registering. This event is provided at no cost to systems; however, any travel costs may be covered by the school system. Registration includes lunch and a tote bag.

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Full Implementation Year

Please share with human resource directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

All systems will implement LEADS evaluations in 2025-2026. Systems are encouraged to utilize the [Evaluation Implementation Guidance for System Leaders](#) to plan evaluation implementation. All evaluators and designated observers must attend face-to-face training and take a certification assessment prior to evaluating. To qualify for the assessment, evaluators must attend all full, consecutive days. Evaluators are encouraged to [register](#) for earlier dates to allow time to reschedule if conflicts arise.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

Level Up: School Support Institutes at Teacher Leader Summit 2025

Please share with school and system leaders.

School leaders registered for TLS under general registration and are also attending Level Up sessions should email SSIsupport@la.gov. Emails should include the assigned Level Up session to ensure the registered participant's schedule can be updated before the TLS Cvent app is released on May 20.

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Virtual 2025 New Homeless Liaison and Parent and Family Engagement Federal Compliance Conference

Please share with counselors, school leaders, and system leaders.

The LDOE will host the Spring 2025 Conference for New Homeless Liaisons and all Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators on May 12. All PAFE coordinators should attend the half-day session at 9 a.m., and new homeless liaisons should attend the McKinney Vento 101 session beginning at 12 p.m. Both trainings will be held virtually via Zoom. No registration is required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 12 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98718411604>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 987 1841 1604

PAFE Coordinators will review the new non-regulatory guidance and federal mandates to align daily practices with national standards and compliance requirements. New Homeless Liaisons will review the McKinney-Vento Law and the roles and responsibilities in servicing those who experience homelessness.

Please contact antigua.hunter@la.gov with questions or special accommodation requests that may be required for full participation.

Louisiana SUN Bucks: Summer Nutrition Support for Kids

Please share with data managers, nutrition managers, and school leaders.

SUN Bucks provides a one-time \$120 benefit to help families buy groceries for each eligible school-aged child during summer break. Most children will be automatically enrolled if they received SNAP, FITAP, KCSP, or income-based Medicaid between July 2024 and August 2025, or if they attend a school offering free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch or Breakfast Program.

Children who attend Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools will need to apply once the application becomes available this spring. Benefits will be distributed in mid-May, loaded onto existing EBT cards, or mailed on new cards in plain envelopes. Families should ensure their mailing address is current, and keep their child's EBT card for future use.

For more information, please visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer/sunbucks>.

School System Financial Services

FY 2024-2025 Third Quarter Charter School Financial Report

Please share with Type 2 and Type 5 charter school financial officials.

The Third Quarter Financial Report for FY 2024-2025 is due April 30. The quarterly report template is included in the workbook used to submit the annual budget. The financial workbook, including all quarterly updates, and the State of Affirmation should be submitted via email to charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov. If your organization operates more than one charter school, the financial report for each school must be submitted separately.

Please contact charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

2025 School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award Finalists Announced

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

The LDOE is pleased to announce the [2025 School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Awards finalists](#). These outstanding honorees are making remarkable strides in schools and communities, demonstrating an

unwavering commitment to student success and well-being. Their efforts exemplify the very best of Louisiana's education system.

All honorees will be formally recognized at the BESE meeting in Baton Rouge on June 3, followed by a special celebration at the Old State Capitol. The overall honorees will be named that day for the Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year and the School Health Service Provider of the Year award programs.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Interests and Opportunities Data Certification and Survey

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

The 2024-2025 Interests & Opportunities survey for calculating the 2024-2025 Scholarship Cohort Index is open for nonpublic schools until May 21. The survey must be validated by your superintendent or their designee by May 23. Survey information was sent to principals and scholarship program contacts on April 11.

Please contact accountability@la.gov and studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

For public schools, the Louisiana Data Review is open to accountability contacts to submit data for the selected Interest and Opportunities documentation-based indicators for the 2025 school performance scores. LDR closes on June 6.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025

Please share with school leaders and test coordinators.

Requests spring LEAP 2025 assessment rescoring must be completed and returned by District Test Coordinators to DRC no later than June 6. The cost per test and the form used to request rescoring are found in the LEAP high school test coordinator manual. Students must meet qualifications for rescore as outlined with the rescore request form in the test coordinator manual. All students in grade 12 have an automatic rescore, so sending in a rescore request is unnecessary. The Civics rescore process will be available in the summer after the release of scores for fall and spring testing.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.